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Endure

- Pastor Sorenson

This month, a group of ten youth and chaperones from our church will make their way to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering. If you have never heard of the Gathering before, it's an event for LCMS youth around the nation to gather, worship together, learn together, and have fellowship with one another. The current estimates are somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 youth will be part of the Gathering this year.

Our youth who will be attending have been hard at work preparing for this for well over a year. As the time arrives for the Gathering (July 18th-24th) there are nerves and excitement for them all.

Please keep our group in your prayers. Pray for safe and good travels, especially as many of them will be flying for the very first time. Pray for our time at the Gathering, that they may learn much about the faith and they may enjoy this time surrounded by fellow believers around their own age. Pray that in this and in all things our youth will endure in the faith and that God would be glorified above all things.

That endurance will especially be in focus as that is the theme for the Gathering. It comes from Hebrews 12:1-3: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

As the youth will explore in even greater detail during that week, this endurance is the life of the Christian. We endure all that comes our way because, as the writer of Hebrews says, it has been set before us. God knows the plans He has for us, including that we would endure faithful to the end.

Even more importantly, we endure because Christ has endured for us. He endured the pain and agony of the cross. He endured the rest in the tomb. And He did it so that, though sin and sorrow weigh us down, through Him and through His forgiveness and salvation we would not grow weary or fainthearted.

As a final closing note and as you consider our youth and keep them in your prayers, continue to encourage them and pray for them always. We have some amazing young men and women. Each and every one of them has been blessed with great talents and abilities, and most importantly, with a strong faith which they exhibit so well.

If you haven't had a chance to, go talk to them. Let them know you are praying for their trip and praying for them in general. Give them an encouraging word as they grow and mature, not only physically, but in the faith as well. God has truly blessed us with some amazing youth, even as He has blessed us with each and every member of the body of Christ gathered here at St. Peter.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Lcms.org/stewardship

Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Summer is officially here. It is such a busy time for us all with well deserved vacations. The fairs in many counties are in full swing.

And just a first reminder that many churches have VBS going on. Here at St. Peter, our VBS is planned for July 28th through 31st. Please encourage your young ones to attend.

Also remember in your prayers our youth going to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering July 18th through 24th.

And, by the way, when you are away on vacation and it is over a weekend, you might do some searching and find an LCMS church near where you are. *(Use "locator" on lcms.org or ask Pastor if you need help finding one.)*

Thanking God for the vacation time you are enjoying and asking for God's protection in your travels. Enjoy your summer and keep Jesus in your hearts and minds always.

Yours in Christ,
Elders of St Peter

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We will continue a study on the book of James.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We are currently on a summer break, and will begin again in August. If you have any suggestions for possible topics, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Usually on 2nd Sunday of the month, but on break this month.

Sermons and Devotional Resources:

- Weekly sermons will be posted on our church website (<http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com>) on the sermon page under the "At St. Peter" tab. (Direct link to page - https://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=1965)
- You can also find helpful resources for your home devotions on the "Devotional Resources" page under the "Resources" tab (http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=489). Now is a great time to begin, continue, and strengthen a home devotional pattern by yourself and with your family.

May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Throughout the year, this space will be used to encourage you to keep your brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Peter in your prayers. As you pray for them, you may even ask them how you can pray for them. Families will be listed in alphabetical order throughout the year. During this month, you are encouraged to pray for:

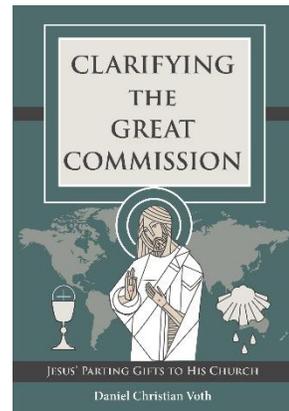
- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Kevin, Amy, Jackson, & Holly Nagel | • Jacob Otte | • Skyler Rebber |
| • Jeremy, Mandy, Audrey, John,
Noah, Emma, & Ella Nye | • Tom & Pegi Owens | • Phil Schaefer |
| • Ben Otte | • Larry & Sandra Phelps | • Chris Schaefer |
| | • Tom & Kathy Rebber | • Kevin, Michelle, & Laurie Schultz |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Missions: This year we will be supporting a variety of missions. The missions we have supported include Clarity, Lakeview Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Tiffany Smith (missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania), a seminary student, and our youth group. If you would like to submit a name of a seminary student or any other organization for consideration this year, please speak to an elder or to Pastor. May God continue to bless these missions as Christ is proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Thrivent Action Teams: If you have any Thrivent policies or products, you are eligible for two action teams a year. An action team includes \$250 seed money and may be used for a fundraiser, an educational event, or a service activity. As a church, we have used action teams for the fish fry, the youth golf scramble, Bible studies, etc. If you are interested in using your action teams for events at church or anywhere else, you can look for more information and help signing up on the Thrivent website or by speaking to Pastor.

Book of the Month: The Book of the Month will be available in the Parish Hall library. The July Book of the Month is *Clarifying the Great Commission: Jesus' Parting Gifts to His Church* by Daniel Christian Voth. Here is an excerpt from the book: "In many congregations, the emphasis has shifted from preaching what Jesus has done for us by His life, death, and resurrection to how we must go beyond the doors and evangelize, recruit, bring in, and make people become Christians. Justification for this shift is rationalized with statements about how the church's membership is declining year after year, how the church is in jeopardy of dying and disappearing altogether unless we get more people to join our congregations. This has led to a strange approach to Sunday mornings. The rationale goes along these lines: Those who are not coming and those who don't believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior will not walk in our doors unless we make it comfortable for them.... The unintentional consequence is a church that asks those who do not already come to church what those who do come should change in the hopes that those who don't come will suddenly come."



Quarterly Voters' Meeting: We will have our quarterly voters' meeting on Sunday, July 27th.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 2025 in the hallway between Pastor's study and the church office. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$20, and the payment can be put in the offering plate or in the mail rack outside the church office door. The flowers are yours for the taking after the worship service. Please contact Sue Anne Heilers at (812) 717-0167 if you have any questions.

Communion Assistance: We are looking for people who may be interested in setting up and/or cleaning up communion. No need to worry about the linens, as those will be taken care of for you. If you are interested in learning more, please speak with Lynnette or Pastor. The sign-up sheet for 2025 is also on the bulletin board.



Vanco: A new, online offering method is now available. You can find more information by scanning the QR code in the bulletin or by going to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMRA>.

Church & Parish Hall Cleaning Volunteers: If you are interested in helping to clean the Church and Parish Hall, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway in the Parish Hall. You can sign-up for a month at a time and you can sign-up with another person/couple/family too. Prayerfully consider lending a hand in this way. You may also speak to Janice Acree or Jenni Acton for more information about the cleaning duties or the sheet on the bulletin board.

Puzzle Sharing: If you would like to borrow a puzzle or donate a puzzle, they can be found or placed in the cabinet in the Conference Room closest to the white board. Enjoy a variety of puzzles and some fellowship with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will not have a normal meeting this month, due to being at the National Youth Gathering from July 18-24. Please keep our youth and chaperones in your prayers during that week.

Pampered Chef Fundraiser: The Youth Group is doing a Pampered Chef fundraiser now through July 7th. Speak to a Youth Group member or visit here for more information – www.pamperedchef.com/party/stpeteryouth.

VBS: Children ages 3+ are invited to join us for VBS July 28-31 from 5:30-8:30 PM each night. Our theme this year is Splash Canyon! If your child loves water, they will LOVE our VBS this year! We are having a slip n slide, a water slide, a splash challenge and more! Please register your child today! Also, we are looking for decor and props. If you would like to contribute canoes, rafts, blue tarps, oars or any type of water/canyon type items, please see Michelle Schultz. We also need volunteer to provide a meal each night. Hope to see you there!

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, August 1st, beginning at 5:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme will be your favorite busy day/school night dish. Feel free to bring a dish to share, your favorite games, or a deck of cards. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to come along as well!

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Lutheran SGO: Take full advantage of all the benefits of donating to the Lutheran SGO and support the students and families of Trinity Lutheran High School. For their generosity, donors may receive a 50% state tax credit. Donations can take many forms, from cash to credit cards to commodities. <https://www.lutheransgo.org/donations/index.php> Have questions or want to learn more? Contact Erin Brooks at 812-524-8547 or ebrooks@trinitycougars.org

FROM THE OFFICE

Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

2025 Offering Envelopes: Hello everyone! I wanted to inform you that 2025 envelopes are now in your mailboxes, or sitting, in the narthex of the church. Please let me know if I did not provide you with them, and if you would like to have envelopes. Hope everyone has a great month!

Church Constitution: If you would like to sign the church constitution, please contact Camden.

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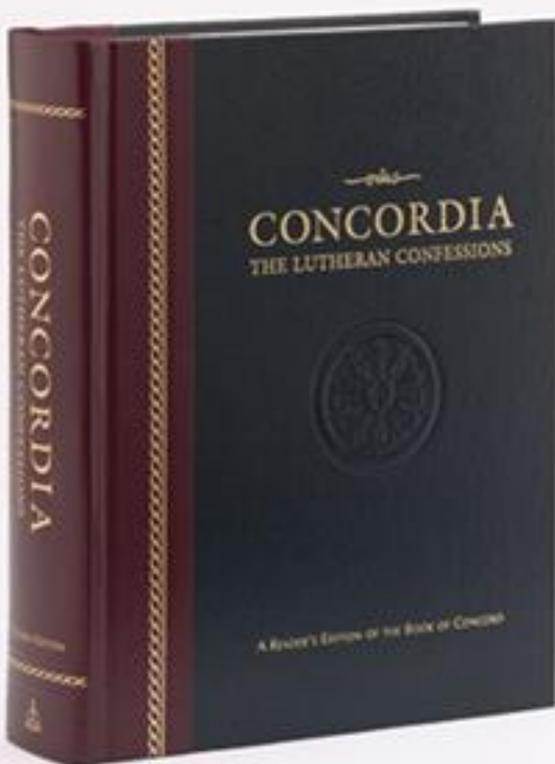
Camden Jeffries • (812) 343-1688, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com

On the web: www.stpeterwaymansville.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch

Book of Concord Corner

On the Apostles' Creed:

"See, here you have the entire divine essence, will, and work shown most completely in quite short and yet rich words. In these words all our wisdom stands, which surpasses and exceeds the wisdom, mind, and reason of all people (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). The whole world with all diligence has struggled to figure out what God is, what He has in mind and does. Yet the world has never been able to grasp the knowledge and understanding of any of these things. But here we have everything in richest measure. For here in all three articles God has revealed Himself and opened the deepest abyss of His fatherly heart and His pure, inexpressible love (Ephesians 3:18-19). He has created us for this very reason, that He might redeem and sanctify us. In addition to giving and imparting to us everything in heaven and upon earth, He has even given to us His Son and the Holy Spirit, who brings us to Himself (Romans 8:14, 32). For (as explained above) we could never grasp the knowledge of the Father's grace and favor except through the Lord Christ. Jesus is a mirror of the fatherly heart (John 14:9; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3), outside of whom we see nothing but an angry and terrible Judge. But we couldn't know anything about Christ either, unless it had been revealed by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12)." (Large Catechism, Part 2, 63-65)



Join us for VBS!
July 28th-31st



5:30-8:30 PM

Children ages 3+ welcome

**Sign-up sheet in narthex or email
pastoresorenson@gmail.com**

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

July 2025

Ushers: Bill Finke

Acolytes: July 6 – Noah Nye
July 20 – John Nye

July 13 – Abe Acton
July 27 – Noah Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

July 6: Judy Strasser July 13: AJ Trimpe July 20 & 27: open

Parish Hall Cleaning: Nye family

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming events:</i> 8/1: Game Night @ 6 PM		1	2	3	4	5
6 4 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	7	8	9 AM – Elders meeting 7 PM – Council meeting	10	11	12
13 5 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	14	15	16	17	18	19
					Pastor, Youth, & Chaperones @ NYG	
20 6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Pastor, Youth, & Chaperones @ National Youth Gathering					
27 7 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting (Bible Study to follow as time allows)	28	29	30	31		
	Vacation Bible School – 5:30 – 8:30 PM each night					